

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph on page 5 of the Specification beginning at line 12 to line 16 as follows:

The shackle 30 in Figure 1 is swivelably attached to the support plate 28 to permit the vessel V (Fig. 2b) freedom to swing about the buoy 10 as wind and current change. The shackle 30 can be any fixed or swivelable fastening device such as a link of chain, a D-shaped ring, an O-shaped ring, a clasp, a hook and eye apparatus, or combinations of these and other devices suitable for attaching the line 32. For example, insets in Figure 3 show an exemplary D-ring 130 in a box-shaped pocket 120, an exemplary clasp 230 in a pyramid-shaped pocket 220, an exemplary O-ring 330 with a link of chain 332, and an exemplary hook and eye 430. Further description is not necessary for one skilled in the art to understand and practice this aspect of the invention.

Please amend the paragraph on page 8 of the Specification beginning at line 10 to line 17 as follows:

Also shown in Figure 3, the shackle pocket 20 defines the bowl-shaped wall 24 briefly introduced above. The wall 24 is annular and slopes downwardly in a direction of the midpoint M in this example. A slope of the wall 24 from about 25 degrees to about 75 degrees relative to the centerline CL effectively recesses the shackle 30 for protection of the vessel hull H. Other angles or slopes of the bowl-shaped wall 24 can also be provided. It will be further appreciated that the exemplary

pocket 20 can be other than bowl-shaped, such as a box-shape, a pyramid-shape, a funnel-shape or combinations of these and other shapes. For example, the D-shaped ring 130 described above is shown in an inset of Figure 3 in an alternative box-shaped pocket 120, and the clasp 230 is shown in a pyramid-shaped pocket 220. Further description is not necessary for one skilled in the art to understand and practice this aspect of the invention.